



NEWS

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**For Immediate Release
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**Public Comment Period Begins
Shell Martinez Refining Co. Gets Preliminary OK for Title V Permit**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has made a preliminary decision to grant a Title V permit to the Shell Martinez Refining Co. for its petroleum refinery, located at 3485 Pacheco Blvd. in Martinez. The Shell Martinez refinery converts crude oil into finished products that include liquefied petroleum gas, gasoline, diesel, and asphalt.

The 60-day public comment period will end on August 14, 2002. During this time, any member of the public may comment on any aspect of the proposed permits. Copies of the proposed permits can be found:

- 1) On the Air District web site at www.baaqmd.gov (follow the Title V links),
- 2) In the Martinez Public Library located at 740 Court Street and
- 3) At the Air District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco. For an appointment call May Leung at (415) 749-4729.
- 4) For a hard copy of the permits, call the Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900 or write to: BAAQMD, Attn: Title V Permit Request, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

The Air District will hold a public hearing on the proposed Title V permit for the Shell Martinez refinery on Monday, July 15, 2002, at the Martinez City Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street in Martinez, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

What is Title V?

Title V is part of the federal Clean Air Act and requires all state and local governments to develop and implement operating permits for all major pollution emitting facilities. The EPA oversees these permit programs and the Air District is charged with implementing them in the Bay Area, in accordance with Federal guidelines.

Title V is intended to clarify the complex air quality permitting process by consolidating the multitude of federal, state, and local air pollution control regulations into one summary operating permit that covers all aspects of a facility's year-to-year air pollution activities. The Title V operating permit program is implemented under Air District Regulation 2, Rule 6. Public comment is important to the Title V process. A final decision will incorporate consideration of public comments on the proposals.

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